

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chris Kozaites, President, at 9:00 a.m., in the library at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Chris Kozaites, President
Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President
Bea Antenore
Raymond Chavarria
William Marmion
Drew Satariano

Absent: None

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development
Bert Srack, Acting Manager, Community Recreation Services
Steven Neal, Chief Ranger
Laurie Browning, Department Safety Officer
Marc Gutfeld, Supervisor of Adult Sports
Robin Black, Executive Secretary to the Director

Guests: David Kaval, Golden Baseball League
Ryan Jamrog, Golden Baseball League
Mike Malinas, Golden Baseball League
Robert Lamond, Partner of Parks

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 19, 2004

It was moved by Commissioner Antenore and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to approve the August 19, 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – LINDA GREENE

President Kozaites stated that he understands there has been a problem with Sammy and Linda Greene has asked to present the Sammy Award next month. He said that evidently Sammy is in some kind of rehabilitation program.

IV. EMPLOYEES-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Mr. Chuck Jensen as Maintenance Operations Bureau's Field Operations Employee of the Month for September. Mr. Lester Thompson said that Mr. Jensen has been with the City for about 18 years and with the Department for about 8 years. Mr. Thompson said Chuck just recently took over the Community Service Worker program, is in charge of numerous special projects, and is the safety captain for their area. Mr. Thompson said that Chuck is a true team player.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Ms. Dana Apodaca as Marine Bureau's Lead/Supervisory Employee of the Month for September. Ms. Laurie Little said that Dana has been a Marina Agent III for the last 8 years. Ms. Little said that Dana was previously in the field doing parking control and was brought in to the marina office, where she is doing a great job. She said that Dana is reliable and dependable, has a great relationship with her co-workers, and the customers love her. Ms. Little said that it is a hard job enforcing the rules and regulations and collecting fees, but Dana does an outstanding job.

V. PRESENTATION TO NAOMI RAINEY

Mr. Hester stated that Ms. Rainey would not be able to attend and he would take care of getting the award to her.

VI. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#04-0901

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Vice President Saltzgaver to authorize the Community Recreation Services Bureau Manager or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Kozaites, Chair

President Kozaites stated that the Committee met and discussed the agenda.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that the Committee met several times during the past month to discuss the fee waiver policy. He said that the year to date statement is included in the packet. He also referred the Commissioners to page 12 of the Director's report for more information.

Mr. Hester stated that the Department has just received approval for filling four of the Park Ranger vacancies. He also said that the Houghton Skate Park is very successful and is used heavily. Mr. Hester stated that staff is trying to educate the kids to self-monitor. He said that the area would also be monitored for graffiti problems. Mr. Hester stated that Bikes 90800 is located at Houghton Park and Dave San Jose would be working with the Department to create a mural at the facility, which would hopefully discourage graffiti.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Marmion, Chair

Commissioner Marmion stated that the Committee has not met. He said that the reports are included in the packet and he then discussed the reports.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Chavarria, Chair

Commissioner Chavarria stated that the Committee has not met.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Vice President Saltzgaver, Chair

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the quarterly meeting would be held next month. He stated that the Houghton Skate Park is hugely successful and wondered how the lights are timed.

Marc Gutfeld responded that the lights are set to go on 15 minutes before sunset and turn off at 10:00 p.m.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that they broke ground for the Lone Sailor Memorial on the bluff.

Commissioner Marmion asked for a progress report on the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC). Mr. Hester responded that the head of the resource agency met with the Governor's office and the direction right now is to recommend preserving a specific number of the conservancies within the state, the RMC being one of those. Mr. Hester stated that one of the reasons is that the RMC is very much an urban oriented type conservancy. He stated that the Department of Boating and Waterways is another agency that is very critical to the City.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Antenore, Chair

Commissioner Antenore stated that the Committee would meet next month.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – AUGUST 2004

Commissioner Marmion noticed on the bottom of page 7 that the Commission on Youth and Children is linking up with California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). He said that it is one more illustration of how important the project is in getting the University involved in helping us to solve the youth problems of the community. He suggested that it would be nice to have another progress report from the Commission on Youth and Children sometime after the first of the year.

Mr. Hester stated that the Commission is looking to work with CSULB, as one of their functions is to develop a report card for the city.

B. MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Hester stated that this is a new report generated from the discussion about getting more information from Maintenance Operations.

Mr. Shippey stated that each section of the Maintenance Operations Bureau is mentioned in the report. He said that a similar report is also submitted to the Marine Advisory Commission.

Mr. Hester stated that this report is then incorporated into the Director's report.

Mr. Shippey gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the contract monitors and the three contract companies. He then described the routine maintenance each company does and went over the contract enforcement forms used by the contract monitors to make sure the contract companies complete their jobs.

Vice President Saltzgaver suggested a meeting with Curtis Tani, Director of Technology Services, to set up a paperless system for contract enforcement. Mr. Shippey stated that the Department's next step would be to look at staff using a Palm Pilot or similar electronic type system.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

President Kozaites stated that there was no correspondence.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Kozaites stated that there was no unfinished business.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. DRAFT NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Commissioner Antenore stated that there was a tornado in East Long Beach a few years ago, and that is not included in the report.

Ms. Browning responded that this is a draft report and would be revised and submitted to FEMA on November 1, 2004. She stated that municipalities are not required to complete the report; however, if one is not submitted and approved, that municipality would be ineligible to receive disaster recovery funding in subsequent years. She said that this plan was to address hazards for the next five years and would then be revised every five years. Ms. Browning stated that all the departments were involved in preparing the report.

It was moved by Commissioner Antenore and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to receive and file the Draft Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL TO EXECUTE A PERMIT WITH THE DIAMOND PROJECT, LLC FOR USE OF BLAIR FIELD

Mr. Hester introduced Mr. Dave Kaval, the founder and Chief Executive Officer for Golden Baseball League. He said that Mr. Kaval came to the City about a year ago with the concept of a new baseball league he and his organization were interested in starting and using Blair Field. Mr. Hester said that he made sure past issues of previous teams were addressed and also brought in the Assistant City Auditor, City Treasurer, and Assistant City Attorney, who assisted in reviewing and meeting with the organization before they decided to move forth with the proposal. He said that this is a permit and does not need to be approved by the City Council. Mr. Hester stated that staff and the organization

met with CSULB and their coaches, who are comfortable with the agreement. He said that staff also met with the Connie Mack league and the American Legion league, who are also fine with the proposal, with their scheduling approvals.

Mr. Dave Kaval stated they are starting a new professional baseball league in California and Arizona at the class A level. They have single entity ownership; the league owns all the teams. He said that this enables the organization to have more financial strength and would ensure consistency in the teams and at the ballgames. Mr. Kaval stated that they have 14 individual investors and have raised \$5 million to date. He then introduced Mr. Mike Malinas, the General Manager of the team in Long Beach, and Ryan Jamrog, Assistant General Manager.

Commissioner Satariano asked where the players would come from. Mr. Kaval responded that they would be local and Golden Baseball would do a draft and try-outs for the team.

Mr. Hester stated that the company is required to pay the rent up front as opposed to at the end of the season. He said that a security bond was also required by the City Auditor's office and City Attorney's office.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit with the Diamond Project, LLC for use of Blair Field, for a term of three years with one, three-year option for renewal. The motion carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATION OF THE NEW RECREATION MODEL

Mr. Hester stated that the City Council approved the 2005 budget and part of that was a new recreation model developed by staff, which he distributed. He described the proposed reorganization of recreation programs and services, which would achieve a budget savings of \$278,805. He said that this plan creates equitable services and consistent staffing throughout the parks. Mr. Hester stated that he met with every Council member and discussed this plan with them. He said that the plan would be put into effect the first of October and that there would be no loss of permanent staff. He also mentioned that Community Recreation Services would be split back into two bureaus, as it previously was, with the Community Enrichment Programs Bureau and Community Recreation Programs Bureau. He said that the Department went through an interview process for a manager for one bureau and has selected a candidate who has accepted, a woman from Northern California. He said that there would be an internal recruitment for the second bureau manager and the current General Superintendent position would be eliminated.

Mr. Hester stated that the Department is now budgeted for all parks and gyms to be open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with supervision, which was not consistent in all parks before. Mr. Hester stated that day camps and extended day programs have now been restored in the parks. He commended Ms. Srack and her staff for all their work on the report.

XII. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

There were no comments from the audience.

B. STAFF

Mr. Hester stated that the City Council requested a report within 30 days on universally accessible playgrounds. He said that most of the Department's playgrounds are ADA accessible but these playgrounds have a higher degree of accessibility and are very expensive. He stated that the City Councilmembers and the Department are deciding where to place them and how to pay for them.

Mr. Hester stated that the Long Beach Museum of Art has invited the Parks and Recreation Commission to hold the November 18, 2004 meeting there.

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that it might be best to postpone the Employee of the Month and the Sammy Awards at the November meeting.

C. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Marmion asked about the progress on the Goodwill Donation Center. Mr. Hester responded that staff met with them the first of the week and that Goodwill staff would be meeting with Councilmember Colonna and the neighborhood groups.

Vice President Saltzgaver requested verification that the Skylinks opening would be postponed to October 29. Mr. Hester responded that the Hardhat event would still be held September 24, and the opening was postponed to October 29, due to construction delays.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Marine Advisory Commission recommended that the Dog Zone program be continued and the item would be going before City Council for final approval.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 21, 2004, in the library at El Dorado Park West Senior Center, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

President Kozaites adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine